TL 1708

PET (Parliamentarians for East Timor) Meeting in Estoril, Portugal
23 July 1993
Present: Lord Avebury (UK), Garrie Gibson (Australia), Antonio Capucho (MEP, Portugal) and Liem Soei Liong (TAPOL, PET Secr.).

Two important topics on the agenda: Coordination of the national PET chapters and the PET Secretariat.

1. Coordination
While it is recognised that local initiatives should remain the thrust of PET, some coordination is needed. The use of electronic-mail is suggested. The East Timor conference managed by TAPOL (with active participation of other ET solidarity groups) is functioning very well and PET chapters can simply link up.
(Akihisa Matsuno from Japan has suggested that there should be an annual PET meeting.) It can coincide for example with important events (like the UN Decolonisation Cttee) where PET members are present anyhow. The annual meetings should be kept small, also for financial reasons.

2. PET Secretariat
The TAPOL office is loaded with work, PET coordination work can't be done efficiently through the London office. TAPOL offered their services that time because there were no other alternatives. Antonio Capucho, representing the EP Intergroup is positive about the possibilities of finding some funds and premises in Brussels for a permanent PET secretariat. He will discuss this with his colleagues and will come back to us. The Portuguese participation in PET will become more important but at the same time it is not wise to have the secretariat in Lisbon. It will also include a paid (half-time or full-time) worker to run the secretariat.

3. Visit to the UN Secr. General
Highly-placed officials at the UN have privately advised NGOs to keep up the pressure on the UN Secretariat/SG, for two reasons: to keep East Timor high on their agenda (as it tends to get swamped by numerous other UN problems) and to give the SG fresh input in the stalemated talks (between Portugal and Indonesia). A delegation, along the same lines as the previous visit (which included MPs from Europe, Australia Japan) should be organised, preferably with a US rep. and somebody from the Pacific islands.

NB: At the ETAN-US meeting in New York, attended by Carmel, it was agreed to press for a PET mission to visit the UNSG. Peter Monet who coordinates work with PET-Canada in Ottawa agreed to coordinate. The ideas agreed were:

1. The mission should go to New York **before** the next round of talks on 17 September.
2. Countries to be involved: US, Canada, Japan, Australia, UK, Ireland, Portugal, South Pacific country. All would pay their own way.
3. Canadian PET will handle application to SG and other arrangements.
4. Eric Avebury should produce outline of purpose of visit, please.
5. Important to arrange for a note-taker, a press conference and a dinner meeting the day before to discuss approaches.